

Recovery of Taxes

2693. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Central excise duty, customs duty, corporation tax and income tax recovered during the last nine months, separately;

(b) the respective targets fixed for this specific period;

(c) whether the targets have been achieved;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the special efforts proposed to be made to make up the recovery during the remaining period of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The amount collected from February to October, 1991 is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

<i>Customs duties</i>	<i>Excise duties</i>	<i>Income Tax</i>	<i>Corporation Tax</i>
15112.68	19973.38	4271	4437

(b) to (d). The targets for revenue collection are fixed financial year-wise. Therefore, the question of fixing any targets for the aforesaid period of nine months and achievement thereof does not arise.

(e) All possible measures are taken from time to time to maximise the revenue collections.

Purchase of Guns

2694. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to purchase more Bofors and Howitzer guns;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c). It would not be in the national security interest to disclose

details of likely procurement plans.

Discontinuing of Issue of Bonds by Customs Authorities for Storage of Imported Consignment

2695. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to discontinue the system of issuing bonds for storage of imported consignments with customs; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Revamping of Export Oriented Units and Export Processing Zones

2696. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for revamping the Export Oriented Units and Export Processing Zones; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Government have announced a package for 100% Export Oriented Units and units in the Export Processing Zones at part of the new Trade Policy. These include a revised procedure of application and processing of proposals under the two Schemes, delegation of some specific powers of Board of Approvals/Administrative Ministries to Development Commissioners of Export processing Zones for 100% EQUs and EPZ Units and certain procedural simplifications.

A.D.B. Loan for Indian Refineries

2697. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are in negotiations with Asian Development Bank for loan assistance for development of refineries;

(b) if so, the amount of loan for which negotiations are going on; and

(c) the items involved under this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) A.D.B. is considering a programme loan for assisting and rationalising energy conservation measures in Indian Refineries.

(b) and (c). The details of the proposed loan have not yet been finalised.

Export of Exotic Foods

2698. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to export exotic foods;

(b) if so, the steps taken to explore the export potential of such foods; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) to (c). To promote exports of exotic foods, for which there is vast scope, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) undertakes various developmental programmes through market development, product promotion, quality upgradation, improvement and packaging etc. Some financial assistance schemes are also offered by APEDA to exporters, manufacturers and research institutions for upgradation and improvements in these fields. According to APEDA as a result of various steps taken by it, the export of exotic foods has increased from Rs. 32.3 crores in 1981 to Rs.88 crores in 1989-90 registering an increase of 173%.

Foreign Exchange Earnings from Marine Products

2699. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether marine products constitute a significant source of foreign exchange earnings;

(b) if so, the foreign exchange earnings during the last two years in the public and private sectors;